

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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R 061652Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4983

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3872

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR CY

SUBJECT: GREEK CYRPIOT POLITICAL PARTIES MAKE COSMETIC CHANGES

REF: NICOSIA 2561 (DTG 271600Z AUG 76)

1. KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT DECIDED AT MEETING OF PARTY'S
CENTRAL COUNCIL DEC 4 TO CHANGE NAME TO DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
COMMENT: THIS COSMETIC CHANGE WAS LONG EXPECTED. AS EARLY AS
LAST AUGUST KYRPIANOU HAD INDICATED HIS DISLIKE OF DEMOCRATIC
FRONT (GREEK: DEMOKRATIKI PARATAKSIS) AS NAME FOR PARTY
AND HIS PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (GREEK: DEMOKRATIKO
KOMA). EMBASSY WILL HENCEFORTH USE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN ITS
REPORTING.

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2. IN SPEECH AT PARALIMNI DEC 5, GLAFKOS CLERIDES ANNOUNCED

THAT THE PRO-ENOSIS, RIGHTIST DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PARTY (DEK) WILL MERGE WITH HIS DEMOCRATIC RALLY TO FORM A SINGLE PARTY TO BE CALLED THE DEMOCRATIC RALLY. COMMENT: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AS NO REAL SURPRISE EITHER. DEK CONTESTED THE SEPT 5 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS IN CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC RALLY, PUTTING UP A COMBINED CLATE IN EVERY DISTRICT. DEK'S ACTUAL STRENGTH IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE BUT IT IS NOT LARGE AND THE MERGER WILL AT BEST ONLY marginally INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE DEMOCRATIC RALLY; INDEED MANY OBSERVERS FELT AT THE TIME OF THE ELECTIONS THAT CLERIDES' CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE RIGHT COST HIM MORE VOTES THAN HE GAINED. LEFTISTS HERE WILL PROBABLY TAKE OPPORTUNITY MERGER HAS PRESENTED THEM TO MAKE CLERIDES APPEAR AS LEADER OF GREEK CYPRUS' EXTREME RIGHT. PRO-LYSSARIDES WEEKLY ANEXARTITOS DEC 6 WROTE THAT MERGER CONFIRMS LACK OF LEADERSHIP ON PRO-GRIVAS RIGHTWING AND ABSENCE OF ANY POLICY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLERIDES AND EXTREME RIGHT OF WHICH HE IS, IN EYES OF PAPER, NOW THE TITULAR HEAD.
CRAWFORD

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